

Making Tracks

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A Bird in the Hand: An Introduction to Ornithology

*Do you dream of being a field biologist;
of studying fascinating wildlife in its natural environment?*

If so and you are a high school science teacher, this program is for you! Join us for a teachers’ workshop at 3 p.m. August 25 at the World Bird Sanctuary, where we’ll unveil a new program for high school students. Presented by MDC and the World Bird Sanctuary, this workshop will give high school science teachers a chance to get “up close and personal” with songbirds, using field identification techniques and mist netting. The full program for students will begin in September.

For more information, and to register for either the teachers’ workshop or the full program, please contact Simon Davies at (636) 861-3225.



Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov



For Busch and Henges Range
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please call (636) 441-4554
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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

August 2005 Volume 05, Number 08



The Flathead Rodeo is in Town!

By Danny Brown, Fisheries Management Biologist

Every year about this time, I become a little more popular among my co-workers. The explanation is simple. It is almost time for the annual electrofishing survey of flathead catfish—otherwise known as the “Flathead Rodeo.” As a Fisheries Management Biologist in MDC’s St. Louis Region, I am responsible for monitoring flathead catfish populations in the area’s two large rivers; the Missouri and Mississippi. The nickname for this survey, “Flathead Rodeo,” comes from the techniques that are required to collect flatheads from large rivers.

When approached by an electrofishing boat, most fish species such as bass and bluegill roll over on their sides and are easily dipped out of the water. Because flatheads tend to skitter along on their tails out in front of the boat, and/or surface far behind the boat, a “chase boat” is required. The chase boat motors around in circles behind the electrofishing boat, picking up stubborn flathead stragglers. Often the chase boat has to pull tight turns in the strong current



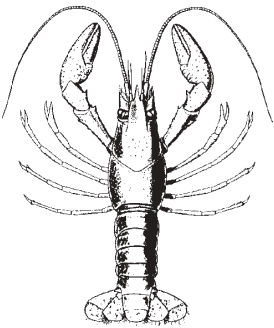
around hazardous rock structures to position the dipper to scoop up large flatheads that only surface for a moment. The process brings to mind a cowboy chasing a calf in a rodeo, hence the name “flathead rodeo.”

Although the flathead rodeo appears to be mostly fun and games, it provides valuable information to help us manage a species that represents aquatic “big game” at its finest. Flathead catfish are a long-lived species that can grow to more than 100 pounds! They are valued not only for the trophy fishing they provide, but also for their tasty meat. Flathead catfish surveys help us determine how fast these fish are growing, how long they live, what type of habitat they prefer, and if they are reproducing adequately.

So the next time you see a couple of MDC boats twisting and turning around wing dikes on one of our large rivers, you’ll know that its the annual “flathead rodeo” and it is all, well mostly, for the good of science. 🐾

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

8 Down To That Crawdad Hole
Monday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Families) Crawdads, crayfish, crawfish, mudbugs – whatever you call these little lobster cousins, they are definitely cool! Learn more about crawdads and get to meet some up close and personal in this program. We will start indoors and then, weather permitting, we will take a trip to a stream to see if we can catch a few of these critters. *Naturalist: Kathy Thiele.* (Reservations begin July 25.)



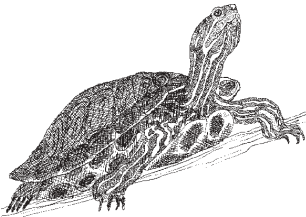
9 Crawdads
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-5) Crawdads, crayfish, crawfish, mudbugs – whatever you call these little lobster cousins, they are definitely cool! Learn more about crawdads and get to meet some up close and personal in this program. We will start indoors and then, weather permitting, we will take a trip to a stream to see if we can catch a few of these critters. *Naturalist: Kathy Thiele.* (Reservations begin July 25.)



13 Nutty Squirrels
Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-5) Join us for a fun-filled morning as we explore what squirrels are so busy doing this time of year. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin August 1.)

17 Pictures in Tissue
Wednesday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-12) Learn to identify wildflowers by their shapes and colors. Then create a beautiful picture of a wildflower from colored tissue paper. *Naturalist: Gladys Kullman.* (Reservations begin August 3.)

20 Reptiles at Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area
Saturday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Families) A warm summer morning is a good time to see turtles and snakes basking in the sun in their native habitat. Several species of turtles and snakes can usually be seen during a late summer hike at MTC. Join us for a 2.5-mile hike on the levees at MTC to view turtles and snakes, through spotting scopes provided by MDC. *Naturalist: Marv Staloch.* (Reservations begin August 5.)



Busch Volunteer Milestones	
Angel Stahr.....	100 hours
Glenn Senter.....	400 hours
Trish Senter.....	400 hours
Kathy Thiele.....	1500 hours
Gladys Kullman.....	2000 hours

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Wanted: Volunteer Naturalists

Do you like working with people of all ages?
Do you enjoy teaching people about Missouri’s natural resources?
Do you have 10 hours a month you could volunteer?

Would you like to learn more about the natural world while helping to promote a greater understanding of Missouri’s resources and their conservation? Consider becoming a Volunteer Naturalist for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Busch Conservation Area, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, Rockwoods Reservation and Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center are looking for folks who are interested in becoming Volunteer Naturalists. Beginning this September, the four sites will work together to present an introductory training course for Volunteer Naturalists. The nine-session course will be held during the months of September, October and November. If you are 18 years or older and would like to learn more, you are invited to attend one of the following Prospective Volunteer Open Houses:



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Thursday, September 8
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Call (636) 300-1953 ext. 244

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
Thursday, September 8
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Call (314) 877-6019 ext. 26

Rockwoods Reservation
Thursday, September 8
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Call (636) 300-1953 ext. 244

Powder Valley Nature Center
Thursday, September 8
6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Call (314) 301-1500



Please call the site where you are interested in volunteering to register for that Prospective Volunteer Open House. We look forward to seeing you!

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

18 Building a Duck Decoy

Thursday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Build a duck decoy for display or use. You will be shown how to take a block of cork and convert it to look like a duck. Dress for a mess. *Naturalists: John Schroeder & Bob Zeigler.* (Reservations begin August 4.)

19 Birds in Your Backyard

Friday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

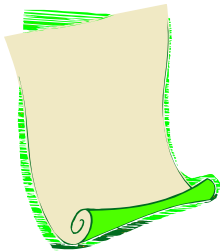
(Ages 3-5) Discover the variety of birds that make their home in your backyard. Create your own birding field guide and special binoculars with help from an adult. Go hiking and explore Rockwoods Reservation. See what birds you can identify using your new guides and binoculars! *Naturalist: Jill Welsh.* (Reservations begin August 4.)



23 Making Nature Journals Part I–Papermaking

Tuesday 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 8 & up) Join us in this nature series as we teach you how to make your own nature journals. We will show you from start to finish how to turn your junk mail and old cereal boxes into beautiful pieces of paper and journal covers. After you make your paper the first day, you’ll come back the second day to learn different ways to assemble your creation. *Naturalist: Karen Kelly.* (Reservations begin August 9.)



24 Making Nature Journals Part II–Journal Making

Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 8 & up) *Naturalist: Karen Kelly.* (Reservations begin August 9.)



30 Making Jams and Jellies

Tuesday 10 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) From delicious foods to learning how to preserve leaves for future identification, you will be on your way to learning about nature’s grocery store. We’ll try our hand at making gooseberry jam and blackberry jelly. We’ll even see what it tastes like! *Naturalist: Anna-Lisa Tucker.* (Reservations begin August 16.)



Rockwoods Volunteer Milestones

Mary Demmitt.....	1000 hours
Michaela Turner.....	100 hours
Bob Ziegler.....	400 hours

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

5 Babes in the Woods: Bugs

Friday 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

(Ages 0-3) It’s never too early to begin exploring nature! Are bugs really creepy and crawly? Let’s have a bug hunt and decide! Join us for a stroller walk and we’ll use our senses to investigate our insect friends. Older siblings are also welcome. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin July 22.)

Backyard Wildlife Management

(Ages 12 & up) No biology degree? No worries. You too can learn how to manage wildlife in your own backyard. Learn a few simple techniques to help identify just what type of animals may be around your home. Get some tips on how to make your backyard more appealing to wildlife of all varieties or target specific animals. *Volunteer Naturalist: Craig Vincent.* (Reservations begin July 22.)

8 Part One

Monday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

10 Part Two

Wednesday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

12 Part Three

Friday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

12 The Busy Beaver

Friday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

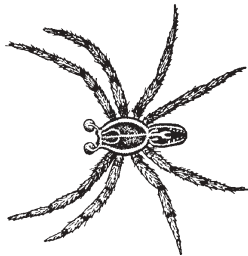
(Ages 2-6) Do you know what animal has a flat tail, large orange teeth, eats wood and builds dams? It’s a beaver! Join us as we learn about these unique creatures. We will discover where beavers live, what keeps them busy and why they are special. We will even find out how beavers say hello! *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers.* (Reservations begin July 29.)



19 Sounds of the Night

Friday 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(All Ages) Do you enjoy the music of a warm summer night? Join us as we listen for coyotes singing, owls hooting, frogs croaking and other sounds of the night. We’ll take a one-mile hike under the full moon to hear nature’s chorus of nocturnal animals and learn about these secretive night creatures. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers.* (Reservations begin August 5.)



26 Spider Sniffing!

Friday 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Bring the whole family to learn about the amazing world of spiders. Once you are well versed in “spider-ology,” we will take our flashlights and go Spider Sniffing. Those with arachnophobia (a fear of spiders) are especially encouraged to attend. *Naturalist: Rhonda Anderson.* (Reservations begin August 12.)

Columbia Bottom Volunteer Milestones

Lena Dowers.....	400 hours
Liz Kuehnle.....	200 hours
Barbra Stephenson.....	100 hours

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

19

Friday

What Was Zat?!

8 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(All Ages) Who needs flashlights when we have the full moon to light our hike? Come one, come all to Powder Valley, where the night life is wild—not scary. *Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin August 5.)

25

Thursday

Hummdingers

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

(All Ages) Come join us to learn about those tiny hummingbirds zipping about your garden. We’ll make hummingbird feeders to take home. *Volunteer Naturalist: Janyce Beyer.* (Reservations begin August 11.)

27

Saturday

Super Stingers

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Explore the world of stinging insects. We’ll check out their habitats and learn how and why they sting. A portion of this program will be outside so come prepared for the August heat. *Staff Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin August 12.)

Quilting Nature

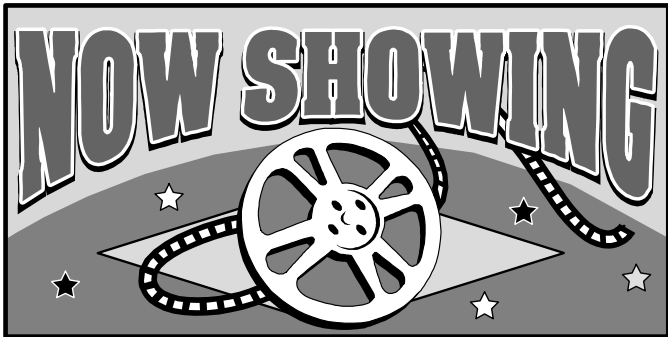
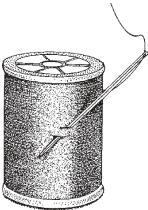
August 29-November 28

(except September 5)

Monday

12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Class will begin the last Monday in August. We will finish the wall hanging started last session – or you may start a personal project. All levels of experience are welcome – beginner thru accomplished. *Volunteer Naturalist: Arta Kirk.* (Reservations begin August 15.)



Powder Valley

Conservation Nature Center

Nature Films

August 2005

August 6 & 7

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Bugz
Eyewitness: Butterfly & Moth

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Jewels of the Ozarks Fishing III
Outdoor Activities II

August 13 & 14

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Eyewitness: Shell
Eyewitness: Pond and River

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Outdoor Outing
America’s Wetlands
Exploring Outdoor Missouri
Caves

August 20 & 21

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
It’s Happening Today on the Chesapeake Bay

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Forests: More than Trees
Deer
Hunting Safety & Equipment
Endangered/Rare Species I

August 27 & 28

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
I Dig Fossils
Eyewitness: Prehistoric Life

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Profiles
Profiles II

MISSOURI OUTDOORS TV STORY COLLECTIONS:
Volume 9: Protection

Shown in Auditorium - **Free of Charge** - Groups Welcome!
Children’s films 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
All Ages films 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
Please notify staff before film starts of the need for closed captioning.
Films are subject to change
No Reservations Necessary

August Hallway

Photography Exhibit

Powder Valley’s

Family Photo Scavenger Hunt

Seeing the Forest and the Trees

Daily 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Powder Valley is pleased to exhibit photographs taken during this summer’s “Family Photo Scavenger Hunts,” which8/ occurred during June and July on the Hickory Ridge and the Broken Ridge Trails.

Participant ages ranged from 8 years to adults. By trailing with a descriptive guide, using a compass and shooting with a camera, participants located and photographed forest subjects. Everyone had great fun and received useful giveaways. In addition, those having qualifying scores, as well as bonus points, also received special prizes such as nature field guides.

Please come and enjoy the photos, or recall the discoveries and memories of the scavenger hunts.



Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

David Anderson.....200 hours	Dave Mostajo.....200 hours	David Winkler.....1250 hours
Kathy Anderson.....200 hours	Dietz Mueller.....1275 hours	Lawrence Burtelow.....300 hours
Alma Dulz.....3500 hours	Rita Mueller.....1200 hours	Keith Spoeneman.....200 hours
Etta May Eagle.....2600 hours	Ron Pohle.....1700 hours	